

June 28, 2005

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
428 Cannon House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4308

Dear Congressman Brady:

I first wrote to you on January 26<sup>th</sup> of this year to underscore the importance of the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) and to urge your support. A vote in favor of DR-CAFTA will send a signal to the world that the U.S. will remain the leader in promoting democracy, economic growth and the rule of law around the world. The ability of Microsoft and the U.S. technology industry to continue to create jobs and expand exports is contingent on our access to developing markets and the commitment by those developing markets to protect U.S. intellectual property.

DR-CAFTA and the other free trade agreements that the U.S. has negotiated open markets for U.S. companies, offering opportunities for trade that exceed the market opening required under WTO obligations. DR-CAFTA further reduces or eliminates tariffs and non-tariff barriers. It requires open, transparent, and merit-based government procurement. It ensures non-discrimination for delivery of products on-line - expected to be the leading software and IT services distribution model of the future. And it requires partner countries to enact and enforce robust protections for intellectual property. These commitments not only will expand opportunities for American goods and services in the region, but also will reinforce high-level trade standards that the United States has pursued around the world.

The United States has worked for years to foster democracy and strengthen ties in the Americas. Fortunately, the leaders of Central America have responded - opening markets, improving transparency and enforcing the rule of law. U.S. credibility in the region, and globally, would be compromised if Congress rejects this important agreement. U.S. business interests would be harmed as well, creating a tougher environment to sell products to this region.

Passage of DR-CAFTA is a high priority for Microsoft and other companies that rely on innovation and open global markets to maintain U.S. economic strength. I hope that you will support this agreement for the benefit of U.S. companies and workers - and for our national interest.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Ballmer  
Chief Executive Officer  
Microsoft Corporation